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To: Commissioner for Patents
Examiner Rueben M. Brown

Firm: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Art Unit 2623

Facsimile: (571) 273-8300

From: William S. Frommer

Date: November 14, 2007

Re: FLH Ref No.: 450100-4486
Serial No.: 09/078,853

Number of Pages: 4
(including cover page)

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RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER PATENT
NOV 14 2007 450100-4486

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Yasushi TAKAHASHI et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 08/23/2007
Serial No. : 09/078,853
For : **INFORMATION RETRIEVAL METHOD AND
APPARATUS**
Filed : May 14, 1998
Examiner : Rueben M. Brown
Art Unit : 2623
Confirmation No. : 7718

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November 14, 2007

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR NEW DECLARATION

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the requirement for a new declaration, as set out in the Notice of
Allowability mailed August 23, 2007.

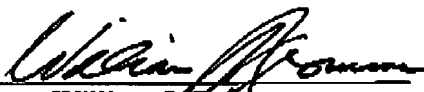
PATENT
450100-4486

The Notice of Allowability asserts that the original declaration is defective because "it incorrectly identifies a foreign application on which priority is claimed." The Notice correctly points out that a corrected filing receipt was requested because the original filing receipt listed a Japanese patent application as a basis for priority when, in fact, no priority is being claimed for the present application.

Reconsideration of the requirement for a new declaration is respectfully requested because the original declaration, a copy of which is enclosed, identifies Japanese application 8-334978 as a previously filed related application and specifically indicates that NO priority was being claimed for that Japanese application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the inventors declaration, as originally filed, was correct, did not include a claim of priority under 35 USC 119 and was not defective. Therefore, withdrawal of the requirement for a new declaration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
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